



## GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER CONTINUES CLEAN AIR CAMPAIGN

"Clean air, clean water and healthy forests are a birthright of every Californian. Those things result in a more productive work force and also in a healthier economy. We don't have to choose between protecting our environment and protecting our jobs. We can do both."

**Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger**, September 22, 2003  
Environmental Action Plan speech in Santa Barbara

### **Today's Action**

Today, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has talked about his public awareness campaign, *Breathe Easier*. The goal of the campaign is to focus on the connection between high-polluting vehicles and negative health effects, particularly in children. According to the California Air Resources Board, cars that are two decades old produce 30 times more emissions than newer vehicles. To this end, the Governor's plan would strengthen the previous Consumer Assistance Program, which pays motorists to voluntarily retire their high polluting vehicles.

Details of the program include:

- Eligible consumers whose vehicles fail a biennial smog check can now voluntarily retire the vehicle and receive \$1000, based on available funds.
- The current 2004-05 budget provides \$4.5 million for vehicle retirement. As a result of recent legislation, the 2005-06 budget funding will be \$16.3 million.
- The program's goal is to take 15,000 high polluting vehicles off of California roadways by the end of the 2005-06 fiscal year. This represents more than 900 tons of reduction in smog-forming pollutants.
- Another goal is to sustain the retirement of 15,000 vehicles annually over the next ten years. By 2015, the effort would result in the cumulative elimination of more than 9,000 tons of smog-forming vehicle emissions.

## **Background**

Throughout his administration, the Governor has made great inroads on protecting California's environment, taking significant steps to reduce air pollution and encourage the use of cleaner energy vehicles. During the past year, the Governor:

- Called for the creation of the California Hydrogen Highway Network, a project that will ultimately consist of putting between 150-200 hydrogen fueling stations along major California highways in an effort to encourage the use of hydrogen fuel-based vehicles and reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- Signed legislation (AB 2628, Pavley, D-41) that allows hybrid vehicles (that is, vehicles that operate on both batteries and gasoline) that have a fuel efficiency of more than 45 miles per gallon to use High Occupancy Vehicle lanes, so-called "carpool" lanes, regardless of how many people are in the car.
- Provided permanent funding (AB 923, Firebaugh, D-50; SB 1107, Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) for the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program. The program replaces old diesel engines with efficient and cleaner engines in school buses and agricultural machinery. In addition, the program went from reducing 3 tons of emissions per day for a cost effectiveness of \$40,000 to 30 tons of emissions a day for only \$5000 a ton, according to the Air Resources Board.
- Ended emissions test exemptions (AB 2683, Lieber, D-22) for older vehicles by requiring any car built after 1975 to have a smog check every two years. Currently, 10 percent of the vehicles on California's roads contribute to nearly half of the mobile-source air pollution.
- Signed legislation (AB 1009, Pavley, D-41) to require trucks coming into California from Mexico to meet national emissions standards.
- Introduced a plan to put solar systems in one million homes by 2017, to which the Legislature agreed to a down payment on \$60 million.
- Revived the state monetary incentive to exchange vehicles that fail their smog check for \$1000, called the Consumer Assistance Program, after it was halted by Governor Davis in August 2003.
- Signed legislation (AB 471, Simitian, D-Palo Alto) that prohibited cruise ships from conducting on-board waste incineration while operating within three miles of the California coast.